Suicide by students

368. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students reported to have committed suicide, preceeding and following the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other equivalent examination results this year, and the comparative figures for the preceding three years;

(b) how far the examination system is considered responsible for heart-break, depression and suicide of students; and

(c) the steps taken so far and being taken to improve and reform the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) A few cases of suicides related to examination were reported in the newspapers after declaration of Board results this year. However, statistics in this regard are not reported to this Ministry. The cases relating to depression and suicides are linked to a number of factors including individual personality, fast changing social dynamics, home environment, inability of children to cope with the demands and expectations of family, peer pressure and a situation in which career opportunities are very limited in relation to mounting number of aspirants and examinations being a major determinant of career path.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already taken several steps to help the students to overcome their difficulties like:

* Arranging for a stress-free environment in schools
* Deciding on introduction of life skill education
* Elimanation of overall aggregation of marks to reduce unhealthy competition among students

* Introduction of comprehensive and continuous school based evaluation
* Providing facility of compartment examination in two subjects in Class X and one subject in Class XII
* Providing three chances of compartment examination for Class X and XII
* Restructuring of questions in some of the important subjects such as Science and Mathematics
* Publication of sample question papers and marking schemes to familiarize teachers and students about the nature of questions and question papers.

Similarly, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) has introduced measures like flexibility in the choice of subjects at the Secondary level, internal assessment, continuous involvement of schools/teachers in updating and revising the prescribed curriculum etc. to facilitate learning and reducing stress on students.

The CBSE has also started tele-counselling on voluntary basis by the educationists, psychologists, psychiatrists and seasoned principals of the schools. It starts functioning before and during the examinations and also during declaration of results to mitigate and defuse the sense of anxiety and stress among the students. For 2002 examinations, CBSE had started helpline from 31 centres in and outside the country. Recognising the importance of counselling parents in the matter, the CBSE has written to all CBSE affiliated schools for organizing such counselling sessions.

Derecognition of IIME

369. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the order withdrawing recognition of the Indian Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IIME) was passed by the Member Secretary of the High Level Committee for Educational qualification, after an extensive investigation;